

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 /074 W

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R 211605Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2968

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SL BG LI UG OAU PFOR

SUBJECT: AMIN-TOURE CONFLICT ONLY CLOUD OVER STEVENS' INAUGURATION

1. LENGTHY BUT RELATIVELY UNNEWSWORTHY INAUGURATION/REPUBLIC DAY ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES ENDED APRIL 21. LONG EXPECTED CABINET RESHUFFLE FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. IN INAUGURAL MESSAGE, PRESIDENT STEVENS REITERATED GOSL NON-ALIGNED COMMITMENT, CALLED FOR LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND STRESSED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH EMPHASIS ON GROWING TIES WITH LIBERIA AND MANO RIVER UNION.

2. DURING LAST WEEK FREETOWN WAS AGOG WITH RUMORS THAT PRSDIDENTS SEKOU TOURE, WILLIAM TOLBERT, AND IDI AMIN WOULD ATTEND INAUGURATION. GUINEAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS DROVE GOSL CRAZY REDOING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOURE. MANY IN GOSL, INCLUDING REPORTEDLY PRESIDENT STEVENS HIMSELF, GREW CONCERNED THAT AMIN'S PRESENCE WOULD UPSTAGE STEVENS. AMIN NOTIFIED STEVENS THAT HE WOULD NOT STEP ON SAME SOIL WITH TOURE AND SATURDAY NIGHT CANCELLED HIS ARRIVAL. FOR HIS PART, AND FOR
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REASONS UNKNOWN LOCALLY BUT SUSPECTED TO BE RELATED

TO AMIN'S PRESENCE, TOURE ALSO CANCELLED, SENDING
PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI INSTEAD. TOLBERT ARRIVED AS PLANNED.

3. MUCH OF THE ABOVE WAS LOST ON GENERAL PUBLIC AND
DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHICH SPENT OVER EIGHT HOURS IN THE
SUN WAITING FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD.
SAMUELS

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NNN

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